



### President's Message by Jamie Swetland

Welcome, readers, to the autumn edition of our newsletter. Yes, time passes quickly; the summer is nearly over and before long another year will have flown by. Our Swetlands, Sweatlands and Sweetlands find that attending the Family Association reunion every couple of years provides a meaningful and enriching way to mark the passing of time. We are hoping to see many of you at the next reunion coming up in 2012. We will bring you more on the plans for the 2012 SFA reunion in the winter newsletter, but first we would like to receive input from you.

Please email your ideas and comments to me at [President@swetland.org](mailto:President@swetland.org) or send a letter to my address as it appears in the sidebar on page three.

Reunions are a great way to share stories and bits of your family history with other Swe(e)/(a)tlands. Reunions are a way to preserve one's family history by bringing documentation, pictures, and books to share as well as to learn and assimilate what others have to offer. Reunions combine two of the main goals of our organization, i.e., to preserve our family history for future generations and to bring together current generations. We attempt to collect genealogical information from our members (births, deaths, weddings) through letters written to one of the officers or by sharing the information at the reunions. Quite often we get recent information of current and new generations. Sometime we get information on past generations dating back to Civil or Revolutionary times or even earlier.

In this newsletter we will begin to examine records of our Revolutionary War soldiers and research that has been collected recently. We will also share the importance of reunions to individuals and their family history. Also, read of a successful effort to maintain a sense of place through donations to Swe(e)/(a)tland structures such as the Swetland Homestead pictured below.



**Swetland Homestead in Forty Fort, Pennsylvania**

*“We would like to receive reunion input from you.”*

*Jamie Swetland,  
President*

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### DAR Brings Aid to the Swetland Homestead

Across the United States and possibly the world stand several "monuments" to the Swe(e)/(a)tland families. These are places of historical significance that have been preserved in honor of a particular Swe(e)/(a)tland and of the acts they have performed to benefit mankind and their communities. One such place that most of us know, possibly from attending past reunions, is the Swetland Homestead in Forty Fort, PA. It resides on the lands once owned by Luke Swetland, a Revolutionary War soldier and Indian captive. He was a Connecticut settler to the new Connecticut lands in Penn's Woods,

There is much history in this home and land, not only of the Swetland families that resided therein, but also of the life and times of the people and the community that evolved during the years of 1772 to the early 1900's. The Luzerne County Historical Society owns this property now and maintains it for all to see and enjoy.

During this past year the Homestead endured some water damage when a water pipe failed. To the rescue came Kathleen Smith and the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Working with Friendly's restaurant in Wilkes-Barre, the DAR collected donations and a small percentage of the sales during four different fund raisers at the restaurant. On July 4, 2011 the DAR presented Tony Brooks, Executive Director of the LCHS, a check for \$815.00. This exceeded the cost of the repairs, allowing for a little extra towards further upkeep of the Homestead. Our sincere appreciation to Kathleen and the DAR members.

### Revolutionary War Pension Records Help Us Get to Know Ancestors

#### Part I by Carolyn Hartman



My great grandmother, Louisa Chubbuck Sweetland, would often write short notes on any scrap of paper available when she thought of something in the family history that she wanted her grandchildren to know. I first became acquainted with my fourth great grandfather, Levi Chubbuck, from one of these notes. She believed that Levi had fought beside George Washington in the Revolutionary War and she shared her siblings' belief that he had achieved the rank of general.

My curiosity led me to footnote.com. (This website has since changed its name to fold3.com and ancestry.com also has these records.) Here I found pension records from the National Archives. These records contain a wealth of information for genealogists.

I found that he was 16 years old when he joined the Continental Army and his rank was actually that of "fifer". His pension records show that he was at the Battle of Monmouth (N.J.) General Washington arrived as the battle was all but lost, dismissed the commanding general, Charles Lee, and led the troops to victory. It was noted by Lee himself that this was the only reported time that General Washinton was heard to utter a hard profanity. Levi probably was beside General Washington at the time: I learned that the fifers and drummers marched with the General. They set the rhythm for troops on the march and sounded out commands and signals that could be heard across the battlefield.

General Washington came to Monmouth from Valley Forge. Since the "Hingham Massachusetts boys" were known to be at Valley Forge, it is possible that Levi was with Washington there and traveled to Monmouth with him. Or he could have been at Monmouth to begin with.

Levi was disabled by a musket ball to the left knee on October 14, 1776, at Frog's Point (N.Y.) He was honorably discharged due to his injury. He later re-enlisted and served three more years. He briefly served in the War of 1812, with the rank of Musician.

These records contain his handwritten applications for the pensions available to him. The pages contain lists of all of his possessions at the time as well as a record of his health, his wife's name and health "very much impaired", a list of his children living at home and his occupation: shoemaker.

On 5 September 1820, he and his wife, Mary, owned:

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(continued from p. 2)

1 middling cow (A middling cow was not a high producer of milk and cream.)

1 middling swine

1 3 foot table

1 pail kettle

2 ox chains

1 wooden clock

6 common chairs

1 tea kettle

Total value of all he owned: \$116.92.

What a treasure to find these pages written in his own handwriting with his signature. I enjoyed living the history of our country through Levi and getting to know him and the way he lived.

(Part II will feature Revolutionary War pension records of **Luke Swetland**, who lived at the Swetland Homestead shown on page 1 of this newsletter.—editor)



## ANNOUNCING THE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP



Do you know a high school senior or someone currently enrolled in any post-high school educational program and who is a Sw(e)e(a)tland descendant? Please encourage them to read the scholarship rules below and prepare now to apply for the \$300 scholarship before March 1, 2012.

### 2012 Award Process for

### THE SW(E)E(A)TLAND FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The 1993 Scholarship Committee established these conditions which, as amended and written below, continue in effect.

1. The scholarship recipient must be a Sw(e)e(a)tland descendant.
2. Preference will be given to high school seniors or to applicants who are currently enrolled in any post-high school educational program.
3. Scholarship Award winners are ineligible to re-apply in subsequent years.
4. Applications must include a letter of recommendation from a family member.
5. Applications must be filed electronically to: [Scholarship@swetland.org](mailto:Scholarship@swetland.org) with a hard copy to follow by the US Postal Service, or by an express mail service, to:
 

R. David Kryder, Chairman  
Swetland Family Scholarship Committee  
1036 North Paseo Iris  
Green Valley, AZ 85614      Phone:(520) 393-1783
6. All application materials must be received by the committee by **1 March 2012**.
7. Applicant reunion attendance is not required. However, applicants and their families are encouraged to attend.
8. There is no specific application form. Rather each applicant is free to submit those materials that they believe will present their achievements and their potential in the best light.
9. The Scholarship Award decision will be based on the committee's understanding of each applicant's scholastic achievements, athletic and related endeavors, interest in family genealogy, and exhibited leadership qualities. Applicants are free to submit whatever indicators they believe will show them best.
10. The committee's decision is final. The scholarship winner will be announced before 1 April 2012.

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Please send comments and  
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### The Omaha Tribe's Wisdom on Family History, Reunions

The Omaha tribe believes that "when we lose an older person, we lose our history" notes Mary Pipher, PH.D. in her book, *Another Country, Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Our Elders*. At family reunions, older and younger generations learn from each other. Pipher continues, "Grandparents are the family historians. If they live to be great-grandparents, and if they knew their own great-grandparents, they will have known seven generations of family. They are the keepers of the collective memories and the repositories of stories, the connecting tissue between generations. This sense of a family to which one belongs is crucial for identity. Families are built by memories, and the more memories, the more depth and richness in the family. . . .

"Reunions often are a source of family stories. Grandparents . . . can make history personal by telling the stories that connect the family to the culture. They can give us some perspective on our modern times" (pp. 288-289).

#### Query on Earle Byron Swetland by Wayne Friedman

We would love to have some help from the SFA readers regarding our research into the origins of our Swetland ancestors. My wife's father, Wallace Byron Swetland, was born in Washington D.C. in 1919, son of Earle Byron Swetland. We have had difficulty finding information on Earle's father, but have a few leads. Here are the details below:

Earle Byron Swetland was born 10 Dec 1876 in New York and died 27 April 1942 Washington D.C.

Earle's father: Norris Swetland married Mary Elizabeth Moss. She was born 1848 Vermont and died 30 November 1908 in Washington D.C.

There seems to be some evidence of a Norris Swetland, Sweetland or Sweatland who lived in Rochestery NY and was buried there. We don't know if this is OUR Norris Swetland, but he was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY. Headstone: Norris Swetland 1837-1883 (paperwork: 29 Dec 1883; "Sweatland").

This Norris Swetland of Rochester had brothers Truman and George and Warren, according to 1850, 1860 Censuses. Documents support all three brothers residing in Rochester, at least temporarily.

I would love to make the jump to conclude that this Norris Swetland/Sweetland/Sweatland, b. 30 Oct 1837 in MA, D. 29 Dec 1883 in Rochester is Earle Byron's father and Mary E. Moss' husband. However, we need proof.

We certainly hope someone in the S/S Family Assn may have some details on these families. Please contact us at the following email address: [mikhail525@hotmail.com](mailto:mikhail525@hotmail.com), or 1516 Markham Road, Knoxville, TN 37922.

#### NANCY NEWELL SWETLAND, 88

Nancy Newell Swetland, a long-time Chatham, Massachusetts resident, died peacefully on July 2, 2011. Nancy will be remembered as a sweet, caring person. She was a devoted wife, mother, and friend to many.



She was born in Newton, MA in 1923 to Helen Shirley Newell and Howe S. Newell. Nancy grew up in Wilbraham MA., attended Classical High School in Springfield and graduated from the University of Mass. She married her childhood sweetheart Harold Swetland on July 4, 1945 after he returned from WW II. Nancy was an elementary school teacher in Wilbraham for over 20 years before moving to Chatham with her husband. Together Nancy and Harold raised 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She and her husband helped plan several SFA reunions and she attended the 2005 reunion when her granddaughter, Karen, received her scholarship.

#### Donation Form (Please make checks out to Swetland Family Association)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation for the newsletter fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
the general (reunion) fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

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and ask to be placed on the S/S Lore email list.

#### MAIL TO:

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